

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for prohibiting predetermined ~~categories~~ types of online purchases, comprising:

generating a database of user specific preferences;

generating a ~~categorized~~ database of web sites offering online purchases;

receiving an online purchase request from a user;

determining if the online purchase request corresponds to an entry in the ~~categorized~~ database of web sites offering online purchases; and

prohibiting the online purchase request if a corresponding entry is found in the ~~categorized~~ database of web sites offering online purchases and if the user specific preferences indicate that that the online purchase request corresponds to a type of purchase to be prohibited as determined on the basis of the corresponding entry in the database of web sites.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein generating a database of user specific preferences further comprises receiving user information corresponding to user credit card information and types of purchases that the user desires to prohibit.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein generating a ~~categorized~~ database of web sites offering online purchases further comprises executing a web crawler operation configured to search through Internet web sites, identify commerce related sites, and store a categorized list of the commerce related sites in a memory device.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein determining if the online purchase request corresponds to an entry in the ~~categorized~~ database of web sites offering online purchases further comprises indexing into the ~~categorized~~ database ~~with a parameter representative of the web site receiving~~ using the online purchase

request to determine if a matching parameter resides in the categorized database of web sites.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein prohibiting the online purchase request further comprises blocking a user's credit card information from being transmitted to the web site offering online purchases.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving an online purchase request further comprises intercepting the online purchase request ~~in~~ by an Internet service provider.

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7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving an online purchase request further comprises intercepting the online purchase request ~~in~~ by a credit card company's credit card authorization system.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving an online purchase request further comprises intercepting the online purchase request with a locally executed software process configured to monitor Internet traffic on a local system for purchase related information.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for prohibiting selected online purchases, comprising:

receiving an online purchase request submitted by a user and directed to a web site;

using the received online purchase request, indexing into a categorized database of online web sites with a parameter representative of a web site intended to receive the online purchase request to determine if the web site intended to receive the online purchase request is a type of purchase available from the web site;

accessing user preferences describing types of prohibited purchases for the user;

applying the user preferences to the determined type of purchase available from the web site to determine whether the determined type of the web site is one from which a user desires to prohibit purchases from are prohibited for the user; and

blocking the online purchase request from being processed if the web site intended to receive the online purchase request is a type of web site from which the user desires to prohibit purchases from.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising:
receiving, from the user, the user preferences describing types of prohibited purchases for the user; and

storing the user preferences information representative of the types of purchases the user desires to prohibit in an electronically accessible database.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising generating the ~~categorized~~ database of online web sites through execution of a web crawler operation configured to identify and categorize web sites offering at least one of goods and services for sale thereon.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein indexing into the ~~categorized~~ database further comprises indexing into the ~~categorized~~ database with a web site address of the site intended to receive the online purchase request.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the ~~categorized~~ database of online web sites further comprises a dynamically generated and maintained database of web sites offering online purchases, the database being categorized according to the type of online purchases offered by the individual web sites.

14. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein blocking the online purchase request further comprises blocking the user's credit card information from being transmitted to the web site intended to receive the online purchase.

15. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein receiving an online purchase request further comprises intercepting the online purchase request during a period when the online purchase request is being transmitted through an Internet service provider.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein receiving an online purchase request further comprises intercepting the online purchase request ~~in~~ by a credit card authorization computer during a charge authorization process.

17. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein receiving an online purchase request further comprises intercepting the online purchase request with a software process configured to cooperative operate with a browser program on the user's personal computer.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for blocking predetermined categories of online purchases, comprising:

receiving an online purchase requests from [[a]] users, the online purchase requests each being ~~associated with a parameter representative of an~~ directed to a different online merchant receiving the online purchase request; and
for each online purchase request:

determining if ~~the online merchant offers~~ one or more categories of purchases offered by the online merchant to which the request is directed that the user desires to prohibit by searching a categorized database of known online merchants ~~with the parameter representative of the online merchant, wherein the~~ categorized database is not user-specific; and

blocking the completion of the online purchase request if the online merchant is determined to offer categories of purchases that the user desires to prohibit.

AS 19. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising dynamically generating and maintaining the categorized database of known online merchants through a web crawler operation.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein receiving the online purchase request further comprises intercepting the online purchase request ~~in~~ by at least one of an ISP based system, a credit card authorization based system, and a plug in-type software system.
